of the recent APEC Ministerial Conference in Seoul has noted the interest expressed by a number of countries and organisations in participating in or associating themselves with APEC. The Ministers of the member countries have requested their Senior Officials to further consider the issue of additional participation, reaffiroing that APEC is an open and evolving process. The Senior Officials will report back to the fourth APEC Ministerial Meeting in Thailand in 1992.

(c) This will be based on the decisions taken at the fourth APEC Ministerial Meeting in Bangkok in 1992.

Assistance from Netherlands to Tap Ground Water in Andhra Pradesh

1198. SHRI DHARMA BHIK SHAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have sought assistance from the Government of Netherlands to tap ground water in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project envisages construction and commissioning of 4,000 bore wells, 100 shallow tube-wells, 300 deep tube-wells 100 infiltration wells. The revised project cost is Rs. 55 crores and it is proposed to implement the project over a period of three years.

Marketing policy of coal gas from Dankuni

1199. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the consumption of coal gas from the Dankuni coal complex of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) could go up to 7 million cubic feet (CFT) a day from the present volume of a little over one million CFT a day with a proper marketing policy;

(b) if so, whether the Coal India Ltd. has in consultation with the Government of West Bengal explored the ways for improving the marketing of coal gas from Dankuni, where much of the Gas is not being utilised presently and considerable quantity of gas is being burnt at the plant every day; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) Yes, Sir. Dankuni Coal Complex project of Coal India Limited in fully ready to produce and supply 7 million cft of coal gas.

(b) and (c). Coal India Limited is constantly in touch with the Govt. of West Bengal and Greater Calcutta Gas Supply Corporation for improving off-take of Dankuni gas. Programme has been drawn up by the Govt. of West Bengal and GCGSC to gradually increase the gas consumption from the present level of 1 million cft per day to 7 million cft per day. In a recently held discussions between CIL and the Govt. of West Bengal, CIL has offered a rebate on the ex-works price of gas. This rebate will be linked with increased off-take of gas and more consumers are expected to come forward to buy gas.

Impact of India's Crude Oil Imports due to Shortfall in Soviet Oil Deliveries

1200. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made of the impact on India's crude oil imports consequent on a severe shortfall in Soviet Oil deliveries:

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the quantity of crude oil that is being purchased by India in spot market to meet the shortfall and the foreign exchange element involved therein; and